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Plate tectonics is the theory that explains the structure, composition and internal workings of the Earth on a worldwide scale, while continental drift refers to the theory that the continents all used to be connected in one megacontinent which scientists dub Pangaea.

One of the most important contributions to the development of plate tectonic theory was Alfred Wegener's 1915 publication of 'The origin of continents and oceans' which outlined his theory of Continental Drift. Wegener supported his argument with five lines of evidence.

So what's the difference between continental drift and plate tectonics? The continental drift theory states that the continents were once parts of a supercontinent called Pangea. Alfred Wegener was the first to offer a comprehensive theory about continental drift but failed to provide a feasible explanation about how continents actually ...

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Plate tectonics is the theory explaining the motion of the outer crust or the lithosphere of earth. Lithosphere is divided into tectonics plates. Two main types of tectonics plates are the oceanic crust and continental crust. Oceanic crust is mainly composed of Silicon and magnesium, hence called SIMA.

Difference Between Continental Drift and Plate Tectonics ...

Continental Drift and Plate-Tectonics Theory. Updated February 11, 2017 | Infoplease Staff. Source: U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Geological Survey. According to the theory of continental drift, the world was made up of a single continent through most of geologic time. That continent eventually separated and drifted apart, forming into the seven ...

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Continental Drift vs Plate Tectonics - Difference

Continental drift is the idea that continents passively move due to the movement of plate tectonics. Like a conveyor belt, continents ride on a plastic layer known as the asthenosphere. We know continents move because we use GPS sensors to track their movements.

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Plate tectonics provides another, more plausible explanation for this. Due to the constant movement and interaction of the tectonic plates with each other, various geological structures were formed. In places where a plate faced resistance to its movement, it would fold upward and create mountains.

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All About Plate Tectonics: Earth's Plates and Continental Drift The Earth's rocky outer crust solidified billions of years ago, soon after the Earth formed. This crust is not a solid shell; it is broken up into huge, thick plates that drift atop the soft, underlying mantle.

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Today, the theory of continental drift has been replaced by the science of plate tectonics. The theory of continental drift is most associated with the scientist Alfred Wegener. In the early 20th century, Wegener published a paper explaining his theory that the continental landmasses were "drifting" across the Earth, sometimes plowing ...

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Tectonic plates of the Earth. Continental drift was a theory that explained how continents shift position on Earth's surface. Set forth in 1912 by Alfred Wegener, a geophysicist and meteorologist, continental drift also explained why look-alike animal and plant fossils, and similar rock formations, are found on different continents.

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All this evidence, both from the ocean floor and from the continental margins, made it clear around 1965 that continental drift was feasible and the theory of plate tectonics, which was defined in a series of papers between 1965 and 1967, was born, with all its extraordinary explanatory and predictive power.

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